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GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS

(INCLUDING ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY)

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

(The size of books is given in inches to the nearest half inch.)

NORTH AMERICA

Guidebook of the Western United States. Part B: The Overland

Route, with a side trip to Yellowstone Park. By W. T. Lee, R. W. Stone, H. S. Gale and others. 244 pp. Maps, ill. *U. S. Geol. Surv. Bull.* 612, Washington, 1915.

In the excellent booklets on our National Parks, the Survey has already set a high standard in descriptive popular writing. In the first of the "Guide Books" it has gone further and for the education of the railway traveler on the "Overland Route" has prepared a monograph that through map and photograph and text explains the landscape, sets both its geographic and its historic past before him and reveals its relation to the great regions of the West.

An increasingly large number of thoughtful and observant travelers journey over the four great railway lines that are covered by these guides. The meaning of the topographic features which they see is rarely revealed by a cursory glance; an explanatory handbook is required that carries the reader beyond the seen to the unseen. The professional geographer and geologist will derive from these guides even more satisfaction than the layman. It is safe to say that they will be the most commonly used books of their class among American travelers in the United States. They deserve almost unlimited praise for their high professional character, their originality of treatment, and their painstaking attention to the traveler's point of view. It should be an easy transition from this project to the cherished plan that the Survey prepare high-grade educational monographs on the various natural regions of the United States. The returns would be intellectual, not material, but they would ultimately far exceed in value the mineral resources of the whole country.

It is in a measure unfair to review a book from a standpoint explicitly not taken by the author. Yet the publications of the Survey are produced by a highly trained technical staff and we therefore venture in a spirit of pure friendliness to point out what seem to us to be a few blemishes which we hope not to see repeated in the later volumes of this series.

It tries the patience of most readers to pass over several pages of interesting description, lay the book aside, recall the next day the subject of a theme and be quite unable to find it. The index includes railway stations only. There are literally thousands of facts which the student can not find again except by most laborious and unnecessary search. An analytical index is really essential.

While in general the maps are beyond criticism, two of them strike us with surprise. Figure 4 is that now somewhat antiquated map representing the centers of ice accumulation and the limits of ice dispersal in the glacial age. That misleading phrase "... the area covered by *the* Pleistocene ice sheet at its maximum extension . . ." [*italics ours*] expresses precisely the idea which is so hard to eradicate from the popular mind. That the "Map of North America, showing distribution of land and sea in Upper Cretaceous (Benton) time" is not included in the list of illustrations on page 237 and that it has no number (both mechanical details) does not disturb us so much as the marvellously truncated Greenland! Mylius-Erichsen gave up his life to "put on the map" that corner of the great island. To one who has read the

tragic story of his expedition there is pathos in the thought that seven years after his sacrifice his discovery should continue to be neglected (See *Bull. Amer. Geogr. Soc.*, Vol. 41, 1909, pp. 23-25). Greenland runs eastward to 12° west of Greenwich; it is represented as terminating on 20° west.

Finally, where is the Overland Trail?

Yosemite and Its High Sierra. By John H. Williams. 147 pp. Maps, ills., index. John H. Williams, San Francisco, 1914. \$1.50. 10 x 7.

A short descriptive and historical account of the Yosemite National Park. The author's love for the region is convincingly and eloquently expressed as he tells of its canyons, ravines, peaks and forests, its waterfalls and lakes. The volume contains over 200 splendid illustrations in half-tone, including eight full-page color-plates. These views, selected from hundreds of photographs, professional and amateur, are particularly fine in portraying the beauties of the "surprisingly neglected" High Sierra back of the Yosemite Valley. Especially enjoyable are the pages devoted to the charms of the valley of Hetch Hetchy, and also the chapter on the gigantic sequoias. In all, it is a most attractive and interesting volume and is a noteworthy addition to Mr. Williams' well-known and popular series concerning the scenery of the American Northwest. To visitors who would know the glories of California and to any who would "see America first," this brief account cannot fail to be of value.

To the geographer, the large number of views embracing a wide vista are of special interest. Where scenery and geological structure are so patently related, the nature-lover's eye is bound to be held by the same landscapes which attract the student of earth forms: the requirements of both are met by such admirable illustrations as the view east from Glacier Point (p. 30), the views of the Yosemite Valley on pp. 47 and 57, and the view on p. 75 which, with its plastic sense of distance, strikingly brings out the relation of the valley trough to the plateau upland.

On Sunset Highways. A Book of Motor Rambles in California. By Thos. D. Murphy. 376 pp. Map, ills., index. The Page Co., Boston, 1915. \$3. 8½ x 6.

Not all of California's roads are of ideal quality, but the state, and especially the southern part of it, is a motor paradise, if that ideal is anywhere realized. The author has not written a guide book, but he has finely reflected by description, by his beautiful monotonies and his reproduction of paintings in color, much of the charm of this favored land. His book gives many impressions of the country that are not revealed by glimpses from car windows.

By-Ways Around San Francisco Bay. By W. E. Hutchinson. 184 pp. ills. The Methodist Book Concern, New York, 1915. \$1. 8 x 5½.

A little book, recording the writer's outings amid the wild natural grandeur surrounding San Francisco Bay. The glory of the sunset, and the witchery of moonlight, appeal to him, and move him to little versified preludes to some of his chapters. Camera and pencil attended his roamings in the wild, and form a tasteful setting for his booklet. Forest, mountains, stream and sea-shore, and the sea-bottom viewed from a glass-bottomed boat, all ministered to his enjoyment. Trout-fishing in the creeks and wanderings through Chinatown were the opposite poles of his vacation days.

DAVID H. BUEL.

The Winning of the Far West. A history of the regaining of Texas, of the Mexican War, and the Oregon Question; and of the successive additions to the territory of the United States, within the Continent of America, 1829-1867. By Robert McNutt McElroy. x and 367 pp. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1914. \$2.50. 9½ x 6½.

This book was suggested as a sequel to Theodore Roosevelt's "Winning of the West." It chronicles the events which led to the acquisition of Texas, Oregon, New Mexico and California, and Alaska by the United States. The author has had access to many documents, and in some of the details, notably Andrew Jackson's attitude towards Houston's campaign for Texas, he has